

BOTTLING PLANT AND METHOD OF OPERATING A BOTTLING PLANT AND A
BOTTLING PLANT WITH SECTIONS FOR STABILIZING THE BOTTLED PRODUCT

CONTINUING APPLICATION DATA

ST This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial
No. 09/510,862, filed on February 23, 2000, ^{PAT # 6,374,575} which claims priority
from Federal Republic of Germany Patent Application No.
199 08 035.6 filed February 24, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a bottling plant and method
of operating a bottling plant and a bottling plant with sections
for stabilizing bottled products in containers.

2. Background Information:

In the beverage industry, in particular when products being
bottled are easily perishable, it is common practice to heat-
stabilize the products. In bottling plants of the known art, the
containers that contain the products are transported in a
practically uniform movement from the entry of the plant to the
exit from the plant. As they move through the plant, they are
heated until they have achieved the required degree of heat-
stabilization and are then cooled, whereupon the heat-stabilizing
process is completed. A heat-stabilizing tunnel provided for this
purpose consequently has a heating section, a superheating and
heat-stabilizing section, and a final cooling section. The
individual sections can have additional sub-zones. The gradual
heating and cooling that such an arrangement provides is
preferred, in particular for the glass bottles used in the
beverage industry, to prevent any destruction of the glass
bottles caused by abrupt temperature changes. The transmission of
heat to the product in the containers normally occurs by spraying

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